

Enfield Clean Energy Newsletter

The Committee

The Enfield Clean Energy Committee is a Town Committee made up of Enfield Residents interested in promoting Clean Renewable Energy.

The team members:

Jeff Myjak—Chair
Ray Gwozdz - V. Chair
Virginia Higley
Steve Moriarty
Greg Mark
Doug Lombardi

LIAISONS :

Town Council:
Tom Kienzler

Staff:
Joel Cox

Points:



When we reach 200 points, we will be 1 step closer to getting a 2kw solar system.

Each Clean Option purchase is worth 1 point. Each Solar or Geothermal system is worth 3points.

Clean Option Points	154
System Points	63
Total Points	217

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Earth Week is April 16th — April 22, 2012. What are you doing that week? Here in Enfield, the town will be celebrating Earth Day on the green in front of Town Hall on Friday April 20th from 4 to 6 PM. The focus of this years event will be “Recycling”.

Earlier this year, the town instituted “Single Stream Recycling”. That means homeowners don’t have to sort out their paper, plastic and cans—they put it all in 1 big bin. And what a help it has been—people are now recycling over 28% of

their garbage saving taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. And how does recycling save tax payers money? For every ton of trash we create, it costs the town over \$60 to dispose of it. And for every ton of recyclables we create, the town gets paid over \$20.

Earth Day on the Green will feature tips and tricks on what you can recycle. The Enfield Clean Energy Committee will be there collecting your old Compact Fluorescent Bulbs. Residents can stop by and drop off up to six bulbs and they will

safely dispose of them for you.

On Saturday April 23rd from 10 AM to 2 PM, Mr. Moriarty will be hosting an Open House at 24 Sidor Drive. You will be able to get an up close look at his home made Solar Space Heater made from soda cans. He will give you tips on making compost tea and other recycling tips. He will also show you the benefits of Solar Panels, Geothermal and of having a metal roof. The tour is free, takes about 45 minutes and goes on rain or shine.

Small and Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems Zoning

On Thursday, March 1, 2012, Enfield’s Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously approved regulations to allow both large and small scale solar systems in Enfield. This new regulation address the possibility of businesses putting in solar array’s to power their facility and/or selling the electricity back to CL&P.

These regulations were needed because as originally written, any business that wanted to put a large scale solar array on their building or property, were prohibited from doing so. Now, there are specific guidelines for such systems. Highlights of the new regulations include evergreens will be planted around the project exterior and they will be planted six foot on cen-

ter and will be six foot in height. This will help to make the area more appealing to the neighbors.

The Commission is to be commended for their work. They went to Indian Orchard and to Holyoke to see working Solar Farms. From there, they saw what worked and didn’t. They learned of the safety that is involved with these, how the system is controlled and how the Fire Department will be involved as they will need to know what is involved in case of an emergency.

These new regulation regulate both ground mount and roof mount systems. They do not address wall or sides of buildings. At this time, putting panels on the side of building is a

rare practice. Only one application can be found in the area, Aetna in Hartford has panels on the side of their building facing I -84. Should a developer want to do this in Enfield, they will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In most cases individual residential permits will only need a building permit from the Town. Commercial large-scale solar arrays will require Site Plan review from the Enfield Planning and Zoning Commission. Anyone wishing to install solar panels, be it residential or commercial, should first call the Planning Department at 860-253 -6355 to determine the type of permits that will be needed.

CLEAN ENERGY OPTION FAQ'S

Q: Did you know?

A: Opening window shades in the winter to let the sun in warms the building naturally. Just be sure to close them in the evening to prevent heat loss.

Laptop computers use 90 percent less energy than desktop computers. Inkjet printers also use 90 percent less energy than laser printers.

If you do two dryer loads in a row, you can best utilize the generated heat. And if you run your washer and dryer during off-peak times (after 8 p.m.) or on weekends when energy use is lower, you help stabilize the electricity grid.

Installing a whole house fan in your attic will let you draw cool air into your home through the windows while forcing hot air out through your attic vents.

Installing dimmers or occupancy sensors where appropriate lowers energy use in copy rooms, restrooms, offices and meeting rooms; spaces which are only occupied on a periodic basis.

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Spring Into Savings! 5 Ways to Make your Home Energy More Efficient

The crocuses are abloom, the temperatures are up, and it's feeling like spring time! As you turn your attention to Spring Cleaning and freshening up your home, don't forget about freshening up your energy efficiency plan.

Admittedly, not many of us look forward to housework, but what if your work saved you money?



Here is a list of the top 5 steps you can take to make your home more energy efficient while also checking off tasks on your Spring Cleaning list:

1. Replace air filters and clean your vents. Clean air filters ensure your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system runs at its best. Supply and return vents should likewise be kept clear.
2. Clean your dryer vent line. This task should be done twice a year to ensure your dryer can vent properly, run

efficiently and avoid fire hazards.

3. Clean windows, lamps & bulbs. The dirt and grime that build up on windows prevent free light from entering, and dust on light bulbs dims their effectiveness. Window tracks should be clear of debris so they close properly and keep the cool air in.

4. Clean your fans. Clean fan blades are efficient fan blades (and they are quieter too). And don't forget to set ceiling fans to draw air up in the summer, usually a counter-clockwise rotation, this pulls cool air up and evenly circulates it!

5. Clean your refrigerator. Take a minute to clean underneath your fridge and save big on the energy it uses every day.

Did you know that your refrigerator is responsible for up to 11 percent of your home's total energy use?

During your Spring Cleaning ritual, it's easy to take a few minutes to get under your refrigerator and vacuum off those condenser coils - and if the coils

are on the back of the refrigerator, that means you should probably upgrade to a more efficient model.

When dust and pet hair build up on your refrigerator's condenser coils, the motor works overtime and wastes your electricity. Wiping down the coils ensures that air can circulate freely and keeps your refrigerator operating in tip-top shape.

While you're at it, you can also check the refrigerator door seals to make sure they are as tight as a nicely insulated home. If you can remove a dollar bill easily after closing the door in your refrigerator door, you are literally leaking money. You likely need to: 1) fix or replace your door latch, or 2) replace the seals, or 3) update an outdated model.

If you have an older, inefficient refrigerator you can save \$50 off your new ENERGY STAR refrigerator with the rebate you receive from your Home Energy Solutions visit. Replacing your older model can save you up to \$100 annually on your utility bills.

Matchmaking Forum: Energy Financing Opportunities

A Matchmaking forum will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2012 from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm down at The Hilton Hotel, One Stamford Plaza, Stamford, CT. The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) in collaboration with the Renewable Energy & Efficiency Business Association (REEBA), the Connecticut Bankers Association and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund are hosting a joint clean energy matchmaking event.

This event will bring developers and financiers together with the intent of creating strategic

partnerships that will further Connecticut's energy, environmental, and economic development objectives.

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Contractors, developers, bankers, private equity firms, investors, financial institutions, chambers.

REEBA promotes the sustain-

able deployment of renewable energy, demand-side management and energy efficiency in the region, and provides its members with a unified voice for advocating for the removal of regulatory barriers and the establishment of legislative-based opportunities.

Their goal is to be the region's premier resource for renewable energy, DSM and energy efficiency advocacy, collaboration, networking and information sharing.

If you would like more information on this event, contact Cleanenergy@enfield.org.